

## A Trustworthy God – 1 – You Can Trust God

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Have you ever been this guy? Your life is running along a path, a path you thought would get you through, only to learn, possibly the hard way, that the bridge is out?
  - A. Maybe you did not see it coming and you were hurt.
  - B. Those you **trusted** to keep that bridge up let you down and then you were stuck picking up the pieces and wondering how this could have happened.
2. Trust is a very special thing to have, and a very devastating thing to lose.
  - A. It can take a long time to earn someone's trust, but it can be lost in a flash by one careless action!
  - B. Despite its sometimes-fleeting nature, trust is important to us.
    - i. We are inclined to trust people, but that does not mean it always works out for our good.
    - ii. Maybe you trusted...
      - a. Your parents only to learn that they are imperfect and sinful, and have not always come through for you?
      - b. A friend only to learn that what you shared with them in confidence was blabbed?
      - c. Fellow Christian only to have them be a "no-show" at your time of need?
      - d. A spouse's word of "until death do us part" only to be betrayed?
      - e. The advice of someone with expertise only to have their "wisdom" prove disastrous?
  - C. When trust has been broken, especially if broken often, it is easy to become skeptical and even **question if God can be trusted**. For, if He can be trusted, why has this or that happened to me?
3. Today I want to talk to you about **our trustworthy God** and specifically about how **God can be trusted**.
  - A. This is important because the Bible makes it clear that a relationship with God demands that we trust Him (Heb. 11:6 – "And without **faith [trust]** it is **impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God **must believe** that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.>").
  - B. To have a relationship with God you must:
    - i. Believe God is **truthful, reliable, and able** to do what He says.
    - ii. Make the choice to trust He says about Himself, the world, and your life even when **circumstances and feelings** would have you to believe differently.
      - a. Trusting God is not based on feelings although it is not about ignoring our feelings either.
      - b. Instead, it is about trusting God even when we feel differently because we know He will present the right path (**Prov. 3:5-6** – "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, and **He will make your paths straight.**").
  - C. So, let's consider how God can be trusted.

### BODY:

#### **I. You can trust God with your life.**

- A. I say that without reservation.
  1. In fact, I will go as far as to say **He is the only one you can truly trust with your life**.
    - a. You may disagree, but there is simply no person or group of people in this world that you can trust with every aspect of your life!
    - b. You cannot always trust your husband, wife, mother, father, brother, sister, or fellow Christian to do what is best for you in every circumstance throughout your life.
      - i. People are flawed, forgetful, frail, and people will eventually let you down, even if only in death.
      - ii. I wanted my kids to trust me. But there were times where that trust was lost because they claimed I said or promised something, and **I could not remember doing so!**
      - iii. I know you care about me. But I need to eat right and lose weight to avoid diabetes. But **I cannot trust you** to be there every moment to assure that I do this, even if you **are willing**. For, you are **not able**. You have your own life, concerns, etc.
    - c. I cannot even trust **myself** to **always seek my best interests**, to make the best choices!
      - i. For, I am just as flawed, forgetful, and frail as others!

- ii. Do I/you **always** eat the right things, get the right kind and amount of exercise, get the hours of sleep needed, make all the right choices about job, life, relationships?
      - iii. Can I/you be trusted to **heal ourselves** of all diseases or to **overcome death**? There are certain things that are beyond our control, and it is foolish to think otherwise.
    - 2. The truth is that trust in self and others is always given with certain reservations, with certain qualifiers that take into account, and often give a pass on, human frailty.
  - B. When it comes to God none of those reservations or qualifiers are needed!
    - 1. God's **character never changes or wavers** (Malachi 3:6-7 – "For I, the Lord, **do not change**; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, **are not consumed**."<sup>7</sup> "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. **Return to Me, and I will return to you**," says the LORD of hosts...").
      - a. That is the nature of God that you and I can count on—that though we are flawed, forgetful, and frail, God is there for all who will return to Him.
      - b. That fact becomes even greater when we consider how those who will come God to them He offers grace in abundance through Jesus Christ, His Son, who Hebrews 13:8 says is also "the same yesterday, today, and forever." So, God's grace in Christ will always be offered under the same conditions, with the same abundance, as long as this world stands!
      - c. Consider how God's goodness is presented.
        - i. Lamentations 3:22-24 – "The Lord's **lovingkindnesses** indeed **never cease**, for His **compassions never fail**."<sup>23</sup> They are **new every morning**; great is Your faithfulness."
        - ii. Jas. 1:16-17 – "Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren."<sup>17</sup> Every **good thing** given and every **perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the **Father of lights**, with whom **there is no variation or shifting shadow**."
      - d. You can trust God's character...because it does not change!
    - 2. His words never fail.
      - a. When God fulfilled His promise, about 430 years after making it, to bring Israel into the land of Promise, this is what was said (Josh. 21:43, 45 – "So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it..."<sup>45</sup> Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.").
        - i. With God time and forgetfulness are never issues we must cope with.
        - ii. Yet, you might not be convinced, seeing you cannot personally verify these promises.
      - b. But, before this, some 4000 years ago, God also promised to show Abraham a land (the Promised Land), to make of him a great nation (though he had no children), and to bless the world through that nation (Gen. 12:1-3).
        - i. The **Jewish nation** was the result of that **nation promise**, with Jews being able to literally trace their lineage back to Abraham (Jn. 8:39)!
        - ii. Through that nation came **Jesus Christ**, the descendant of **Abraham**, to **bless the world** with grace, forgiveness, and eternal life (Mt. 1:1-16, esp. 1:1 – "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.>").
        - iii. So, what is my point? If you want to know whether God's word can be trusted, if God's promises are sure, if God keeps his word, **look around you**.
          - 1) The church, the saved body of Christ, testifies that God is trustworthy.
          - 2) Though the fulfillment of this promise was so improvable with the Jews behaving terribly throughout their history, with the Jews rejecting Jesus, the Roman Empire, along with many other nations, trying to destroy it and continuing to do so even today, though Satan has worked tirelessly from the beginning to destroy it, the church lives on giving hope to all who will believe and obey Jesus!
          - 3) **I know for a fact that God's promise to Abraham has changed my life**, giving me hope in the midst of **despair** and **pain** and **loss**!
      - c. With these things in mind, consider how much God wants you to know that you to trust Him (Heb. 6:13-20 – "For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could

swear by no one greater, **He swore by Himself**,<sup>14</sup> saying, “I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you.”<sup>15</sup> And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.<sup>16</sup> For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them **an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute**.<sup>17</sup> In the same way God, **desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise** [Christians] **the unchangeableness of His purpose**, interposed with an **oath**,<sup>18</sup> so that by **two unchangeable things** in which it is **impossible** for God to lie, **we who have taken refuge** would have **strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us**.<sup>19</sup> This hope we have as an **anchor of the soul**, a hope both **sure and steadfast** and one which enters within the veil,<sup>20</sup> where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”).

- i. God, **who cannot lie**, not only **promised** Abraham concerning the blessings to all in Christ through his lineage, He added an **oath** so that **we** who have **taken refuge in Christ** can know our hope in Christ is **sure** and **steadfast**, an **anchor** for our souls!
  - ii. There is reason that the Hebrew writer said, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23).
- C. God is available, willing, and able to help.
1. This is because God truly cares about your life. Without care, trust means nothing.
    - a. What God does is for your good (Deut. 6:24 – “So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God **for our good always** and **for our survival**, as it is today.”).
    - b. He knows and considers the things of your life.
      - i. David (Psa. 56:8 – “You have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?”).
      - ii. Jesus (Matt. 10:28-31 – “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet **not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father**.<sup>30</sup> But the **very hairs of your head are all numbered**.<sup>31</sup> So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”).
    - c. He is able and willing to do what you need to successfully get through this life.
      - i. He is **able** to help us as sinners (Heb. 2:17-18 – “Therefore, **He had to be made like His brethren in all things**, so that He might become a **merciful and faithful high priest** in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”<sup>18</sup> For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, **He is able** to come **to the aid of those who are tempted**.”).
      - ii. He is **willing** to help sinners overcome (1 Cor. 10:13 – “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful**, who will **not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation **will provide the way of escape** also, so that **you will be able to endure it**.”).
    - d. God is willing and able to help **whenever you need it** (Heb. 4:14-16 – “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our confession**.<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.<sup>16</sup> Therefore **let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace**, so that **we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need**.”).

## II. You can trust God with your feelings

- A. When you care about someone, you care about their feelings.
1. How someone feels affects their life, relationships, health, and general wellbeing.
  2. While feelings of joy and happiness are great, feelings of depression and anxiety can be crippling, devastating.
  3. So, when I care about someone, I need to care about how they feel, and be sure they know I care about their feelings.

- B. Since God cares for you, He also cares about your feelings (1 Pet. 5:6-7 – “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, <sup>7</sup> **casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.**”).
1. Note that God’s care is not a casual one or one that is selfish and self-centered.
    - a. People often care about others because they care about themselves.
      - i. It is what the other person provides for them that motivates this care.
      - ii. When that person becomes a liability, a drain upon them mentally and physically, people are often quick to cut ties and move on.
    - b. But God, however, invites you to be open with Him concerning your feelings, to “cast **all your anxiety** on Him,” because He truly cares for you.
    - c. The truth is, God knows you and I are **liabilities**, a drain if you will, but invites us to lean on Him...continually!
  2. God proved that He cares about your feelings when He revealed how Jesus approached Him as “Abba, Father.”
    - a. Jesus was **deeply troubled** as he faced his suffering on the cross (Mk. 14:32-34 – “They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, “Sit here until I have prayed.” <sup>33</sup> And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and **begin to be very distressed and troubled.** <sup>34</sup> And He said to them, “My soul is **deeply grieved** to the **point of death**; remain here and keep watch.”).
      - i. God loves you so much that He sent Jesus that might know, by experience, how you **feel** even in your very worst moments!
      - ii. For, Jesus would soon be betrayed, arrested, put in chains, tried, beaten, and finally hung on a cross with spikes driven through his hands and feet.
      - iii. If that were not enough, every person that had been faithful to him was going to prove untrustworthy, not to mention how those he fed and healed would seek his death.
    - b. As a result, Jesus came to the Father, His “Abba,” **seeking a “plan B”** (Mk. 14:35-36 – “And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that **if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by.** <sup>36</sup> And He was saying, “**Abba! Father!** All things are possible for You; **remove this cup from Me**; yet not what I will, **but what You will.**”).
      - i. When Jesus called the Father “Abba” he was using a very endearing term for one’s father, expressing intimacy, respect, and love.
      - ii. Why would God reveal these words from Jesus’ lips?
        - 1) God wants us to see that it does not show a lack of faith to come to God with your feelings, your question, your doubts, and express to him your desire, if He would, to give you a different path to follow.
        - 2) These are not faithless words, but the words of a Son talking to his His “dear Father,” the One he trusts with his life.
        - 3) For, when the Father’s will was certain, even though it meant suffering on the cross and certain death, Jesus could confidently say, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” (Lk. 23:46).
  3. **God wants you to approach him as “Abba, Father,”** the One you can trust with your heart and life (Rom. 8:14-15 – “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but **you have received a spirit of adoption as sons** by which we cry out, “**Abba! Father!**”).
    - a. Like with Jesus, God is not offended or put out when you come and express your feelings, even if they involve questions and doubts.
      - i. Consider what Paul confessed by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:8-9 – “For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were **burdened excessively**, beyond our strength, so that we **despaired even of life;** <sup>9</sup> indeed, we had the **sentence of death** within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but **in God who raises the dead.**”).

- ii. Have you ever felt like death was a better option than life? Paul and his companions did!
- iii. But these are the times not to turn away, but to come to your trustworthy God and tell Him what you are feeling that you might learn to trust Him over yourself!
- b. That you may have questions or doubts is not a deal breaker!
  - i. Remember when man in the crowd came to Jesus seeking the cure for his son possessed with a demon (Mk. 9:23-24 – “And Jesus said to him, “‘If You can?’ All things are possible to him who **believes.**”<sup>24</sup> Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; **help my unbelief.**”).
  - ii. This man believed but struggled to accept the greatness of Jesus’ power. But Jesus still healed this man’s son! (9:25-26).
  - iii. Why reveal this? Because God wants us to know that He understands that we sometimes struggle with the extents of our faith and that you can express that to Him.
    - 1) Such expressions show a willingness to come to God for help and understanding.
    - 2) Doing this helps you accept that God is bigger than you can understand and will help you grow in your trust of Him.

## II. Practical exhortations:

- A. Do not let your feelings rule your life. Feelings are fickle and misleading.
  - 1. Instead, show your faith in God by confessing them to Him—the good and bad—in **prayer**.
  - 2. He is not disappointed or frustrated by your struggles, doubts, or pain, but will help you deal with them as any faithful father would.
  - 3. Then show, as did Jesus, your faith by obeying, knowing God seeks your good.
- B. Trust in what God has **said** (Jn. 17:17 – “Sanctify them in the truth; **Your word is truth.**”).
  - 1. People continually make the mistake of trusting in what they **want God to say**, which is not the same.
  - 2. It is not fair to hold me to something and be disappointed in me about something that I never said or promised. Yet, people do this to God all the time!
    - a. People come up with all kinds of ideas concerning the life a Christian is to live. Most of the time it means living some sort of charmed and cushy life.
    - b. What else are so many people to think when 1) we are selfish and self-centered, and 2) churches today are about entertainment, banquets, gyms, coffee shops, etc.?!
      - c. So, when bad things happen people question if God is trustworthy.
  - 3. What God has actually promised in this world is **peace** in the midst of **tribulation** through Christ’s **victory** (Jn. 16:33 – “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have **peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.**”).
    - a. We are called to be soldiers and to stand and fight (Eph. 6:10-11 – “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil”).
    - b. What God offers is His **strength** and His **armor** to help assure that you can **overcome** and say, as did Paul, “I have **fought the good fight**, I have finished the course, I have **kept the faith**;<sup>8</sup> in the future there is **laid up for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (Phil. 4:7-8).
- C. Come to know God (**Jer. 9:23-24** – “Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast **of his wisdom**, and let not the mighty man boast **of his might**, let not a rich man boast **of his riches**;<sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast of this, that **he understands and knows Me**, that I am the LORD who exercises **lovingkindness, justice and righteousness** on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.”).
  - 1. The first thing of significance here is that the very things people trust in instead of God are listed, it has not changed, and said to be inadequate.
  - 2. The second thing of significance is that what trumps these is **knowing God!**

- a. We tell our kids (and adults at times), “Don’t trust strangers!” You know why we do that? Because they are **strangers**, because **we do not know them!**
  - b. If you do not take time in study, thought, and prayer to know God and understand His nature and will, **if He is a stranger to you**, how do you hope to truly trust Him?
- D. Learn to wait on God.
1. Sometimes when you are faithfully seeking the Lord, what you need to do is **wait on Him** to act on your behalf, to do what you cannot do yourself (**Isa. 40:31** – “Yet those who **wait for the LORD will gain new strength**; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”).
    - a. Is that not what experience has told us?
    - b. Yet, it is so easy to grow impatient, to forget or reject that God knows best and will do what is best.
    - c. So, we **launch out on our own** instead only to mess things up
  2. We need to learn that God is our hope, rock, and salvation, and wait on Him (**Psalm 62:5-8** – “My soul, **wait in silence for God only**, for my **hope is from Him**. <sup>6</sup> **He only is my rock and my salvation**, My **stronghold**; I shall not be shaken. <sup>7</sup> On God my salvation and my glory rest; the rock of my **strength**, my **refuge is in God**. <sup>8</sup> **Trust in Him at all times**, O people; **pour out your heart before Him**; God is a **refuge for us**. Selah.”).

CONCLUSION:

1. God is trustworthy. You can truly trust Him with your life and your heart.
2. You may have struggled to do so and have looked to other things for help and comfort.
3. Yet, I can tell you without hesitation that knowing God is the only way to confidently face this life (1 Tim. 1:12 – “For this reason I also **suffer these things**, but I am **not ashamed**; for **I know whom I have believed** and I am **convinced** that **He is able** to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”).
4. Well, I hope I have given you reason to know God in whom you can trust and be convinced that He will guard your life, and more importantly your soul, for the day of salvation at Christ’s return.
5. Will you come to Jesus in F-R-C-B-Lf?